



Thursday, 31 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please forgive a second communication in as many days but like everything at the moment we are informed of changes and new initiatives as it breaks on national television or social media. Due to the lack of information it is therefore difficult to plan and prepare ahead of these announcements. However, following yesterday's announcement from Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education, I wanted to inform you about how this news will impact you and your child's education.

Monday 4th January remains an INSET day with no pupils attending school.

From Tuesday (5th) – Friday (8th) all teaching is to be delivered remotely to all year groups and we expect all pupils to follow their regular timetable of lessons each day (next week is week 2!). Learning will be conducted through a blend of live lessons and ICA work set on Class Charts which your son / daughter will be familiar with. Attached is an overview of our expectations when pupils are learning from home. ONLY vulnerable pupils and children of Critical Key workers are allowed to attend school. These pupils will access learning in our ICT classrooms and our support staff will be on hand to assist pupils if and when needed.

To help parents identify if their child is classed as vulnerable the following definition has been circulated by the DFE:

- a child who has a child need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
 - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services
 - adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
 - those living in temporary accommodation
 - those who are young carers
 - those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example, due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
 - care leavers
 - other children and young people who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health

Please can Parents/Carers of pupils who meet this criteria text the Academy on 07860 034 245 with your child's name by Sunday 3rd January if your child will be attending.

The following week (W/B 11th January) Year 11 pupils will be asked to return to school along with vulnerable pupils and critical key worker pupils. These pupils will access their normal timetable with remote learning being provided for all pupils who are not attending at this time.

All pupils will be expected to return to full time education at Thornhill Academy from the 18th January.

During the timescale outlined above we will be organising the set up and rollout of the lateral flow testing to help identify asymptomatic cases of Covid 19. This programme of testing will initially start with staff, those pupils who are attending school and Year 11. The remainder of the pupils will then be tested over the course of the week beginning 18th January. This gradual testing programme will allow us to become more proficient and ensure we can be as efficient as possible so school life is not disrupted further. The exact details of this testing programme are still to be planned but I hope to update you all later next week.

Could I once again request that if you are happy for your child to be tested, please fill in the consent form online here <https://tinyurl.com/thornhillcovidtestform>.

May I thank you for your help and support so far in these matters and would like to wish you all a happy new year. Let's hope that the 2021 is more memorable for the right reasons.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Redford', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr Redford
Headteacher

REMOTE LEARNING

Your teachers will ensure that you:

- Have access to your full curriculum by following their timetable and being invited to live lessons.
- Have access to your full curriculum through appropriate work online, when attendance to live lessons is not possible.
- Receive the pastoral support through virtual tutor and welfare calls. Receive the same level of educational support as you would receive if you were working in school.



We expect that EVERY DAY you:

- ✓ Check your timetable on Class Charts for any live zoom lessons.
- ✓ Attend virtual tutor promptly at 8:45 each morning.
- ✓ Follow your daily timetable as if you were in school by;
 - Attending live lessons whenever they are available,
 - Check ICA work on Class Charts when live lessons are not available.
- ✓ Complete work as asked to the best of your ability.
- ✓ Ask teachers for help when you need it via email or messenger.
- ✓ Submit work back to teachers by the end of each day via class charts or email.
- ✓ Bring all work back to school when you return.

We ask that parents:

- Provide a quiet space for you to work.
- Provide basic equipment for you to complete your work.
- Support you in completing and submitting your work.

